

Sunday, December 28, 2003

Community chooses new representatives

By: Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Residents of Baghdad's Ameria neighborhood lined the streets near the old Iraqi Airways Club to choose new neighborhood advisory council (NAC) members Dec. 16.

Votes were cast in this caucus-style "refreshing process" after residents determined that the current five council members – selected by the Coalition Provisional Authority in June – did not represent the neighborhood's diversity.

"They are all good people, but I hope (the new council members) provide better service for the (residents,)" said Ameria resident Mohannad Noufal.

The 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, of 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Riley, Kan., organized the event and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps provided security for the voting location.

Because of security reasons, the location of the event wasn't announced until 8 p.m. the day before, but with a turnout of approximately 1,100 voters, it went well, said Capt. Michael Coerper, battalion civil-military affairs officer.

"The (process went) very smoothly – (candidates) gave their speeches, the people came in, voted and left," he said.

The caucus is believed to be the largest democratic convention in Baghdad since Coalition forces liberated Iraq in May.

"It's a good feeling," Noufal said. "I hope the (caucus) is a successful one."

In the selection process, 32 candidates convened and gave two-minute campaign speeches. Following the speeches, residents were filed in to the building to cast their ballot.

While the original NAC had only five members, the council has been restructured to cover the seven sections of the neighborhood. Candidates campaigned for seats designated for their part of the community and residents of that section voted for those representatives.

"I hope life will be more organized and (council members) will be able to solve problems in a scientific way," Noufal said.



Citizens of Baghdad's Ameria neighborhood pack in to a building to fill out ballots at the neighborhood advisory council refreshing caucus to reselect council members.

Second Bn., 70th Armor Regt., conducted an informal background and security check on candidates before the election. A more detailed screening will be conducted after the votes were tallied.

The screening process is to determine if candidates were, or are high-ranking Ba'ath Party officials.

"Candidates can't be a level 1-4 Ba'athist -- one of the high-level guys," Coerper said. "They can be lower-level Ba'ath Party members, but they have to sign a form denouncing the Ba'ath Party."

This is the first NAC in Baghdad to completely refresh its membership.

Third BCT expects to refresh up to one third of its NACs in the coming months.

The refreshing is another step in the citizens of Iraq determining their own future as they move toward self-governance.

"Council members are being chosen (by the people) rather than being selected (by an outside organization,)" Coerper said. "We are giving everybody the opportunity to express their freedom by electing their own representatives."

The Old Ironsides Report

December 28, 2003

News...

Investigators Trace Diseased Cow to Canada

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Holstein infected with mad cow disease in Washington state was imported into the United States from Canada about two years ago, federal investigators tentatively concluded Saturday. Dr. Ron DeHaven, chief veterinarian for the Agriculture Department, said Canadian officials have provided records that indicate the animal was one of a herd of 74 cattle that were shipped from Alberta, Canada, into this country in August 2001 at Eastport, Idaho. It joined the Washington state herd in October 2001.

Iran Fears Quake Toll Could Hit 40,000

BAM, Iran (AP) - Overwhelmed relief crews picked through rubble searching for survivors or bodies Saturday, a day after an early morning earthquake killed perhaps tens of thousands of people and devastated much of this ancient city in southeast Iran. As help began arriving from around the world, the scope of the disaster was so vast that a precise death toll was not available. The Interior Ministry estimated 20,000 dead, but two leading rescue officials said the number could be twice as high.

4 Youths Among 7 Dead in Calif. Mudslides

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) - Four children from a church camp were among seven people found dead after mudslides ravaged a canyon recently burned bare in the San Bernardino Mountains, officials said Saturday. The children ranged in age from 9 to 17, said San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Cindy Beavers. A 30-year-old was also found dead near the camp, and the bodies of two other adults were found at another campground about five miles away.

Latest Bid to Contact Mars Lander Fails

LONDON (AP) - Scientists again failed Saturday to pick up a signal from Europe's first Mars lander that would confirm it had arrived safely on the Red Planet. A third attempt by NASA's orbiting Mars Odyssey - at about 1:15 a.m. EST Saturday - made no contact with the Beagle 2, which was supposed to have landed at 10 p.m. EST Wednesday. It should have started emitting its signal within a few hours.

Chaplain's thought for the day...

Choices

We usually face more than one intersection in our lifetime. Life is choice, we will always have to make good choices, in the first quarter and in the last quarter. -

Jerry Falwell

Seek God's help and you will make the right choices.

Leader says Belarus wary of U.S. attack

MINSK, Belarus — President Alexander Lukashenko said yesterday that Belarus must be prepared to defend itself against U.S. attack.

Lukashenko, once called Europe's last dictator by U.S. officials, has criticized the invasion of Iraq, saying it had created a precedent whereby undesirable leaders could be unseated with military force.

"Belarus has to be vigilant and pay particular attention to strengthening its fighting efficiency," he said. "The world has returned to times when war and brute force were real instruments of foreign policy."

"The United States declared its particular right to use military force towards countries that dare to implement independent foreign and internal policies."

Lukashenko pledged to increase military spending next year in the impoverished nation of 10 million.

"We are not going to do any saber-rattling," he said. "We are not going to threaten anybody. We are talking only about defending our motherland."

Sports...

Newman Takes Top 2003 Driving Honors

NEW YORK (AP) -- Ryan Newman was honored as Driver of the Year in 2003 after a season in which he won eight races and 11 poles in NASCAR's Winston Cup Series.

This was only the second time in the award's 37-year history the honor did not go to a series champion. Matt Kenseth won this year's Cup title. Bill Elliott received the award in 1985 despite finishing second to Darrell Waltrip in the points.

Newman failed to finish seven of 36 races in 2003 and wound up sixth in the points, but he drew eight of the 18 votes from a national panel of motorsports writers and broadcasters.

He also was the favorite of 44 percent of the fans who voted online. That total counted as one vote in the final tally.

"It's awesome," said Newman, who drove for Penske Racing South in only his second full year in Winston Cup. "Not only the award, but the honor of all the drivers that have gotten it."

Kenseth drew just one vote from the panel. Other drivers receiving votes were series champions Paul Tracy (CART), Steve Kinser (World of Outlaws), Greg Anderson (NHRA Pro Stock), Kenny

Bernstein (NHRA Top Fuel), Scott Dixon (IRL), J.J. Yeley (USAC) and IRL star Sam Hornish, Jr., who made a late run at the title.

The award was announced Saturday by Speed Channel and Barry Schmoeyer, president of the Driver of the Year Foundation.

The Old Ironsides Report

December 28, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2003				As of: Saturday, December 27, 2003 8:44:47 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			THE DIVISION : - SECRETS AND LIES	CELEBRATION OF VICTORY : - HOW TO BE HAPPY	FOX NEWS LIVE	00:00
00:30	ESPNEWS			CORAL RIDGE HOUR : - THE NAME OF GOD		00:30
01:00	NFL - SEATTLE SEAHAWKS @ SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - SEC: LOUISVILLE @ KENTUCKY	SARAH, PLAIN & TALL: TALL: WINTER'S END	THE WORD IN THE WORLD : - THE STORY OF ABSALOM	FOX NEWS LIVE	01:00
01:30				CAFE VIDEO : - LADIES' NIGHT AT THE CAFE		01:30
02:00				HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30				WISHBONE : - BONE OF ARC	MCLAUGHLIN GROUP	02:30
03:00		SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03'04') : - THE BEST OF WILL FERELLE 2	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - CHRISTMAS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - HELP WANTED/ TEA AT THE TREEDOME	CAPITAL GANG	03:00
03:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - SATISFACTION FOR THE SPIRITUALLY THIRSTY	AIR FORCE TV NEWS		03:30
04:00	ESPNEWS		PRECEPTS FOR LIFE : - YOUR FUTURE (PT. 1)	NFL PRIMETIME	WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW	04:00
04:30	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10 (WOMEN'S): OREGON STATE @ CALIFORNIA	LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD	REAL VIDEOS : - THE ALTERED	NFL - PHILADELPHIA EAGLES @ WASHINGTON REDSKINS	HEADLINE NEWS	04:30
05:00			THE SIMPSONS : - GRANDPA VS. SEXUAL INADEQUACY		PEOPLE IN THE NEWS	05:00
05:30		THE ENTERTAINERS	MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE			05:30
06:00			EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - FRANK PAINTS THE HOUSE		CNN SATURDAY NIGHT	06:00
06:30	ESPNEWS	AMERICAN ATHLETE	THE KING OF QUEENS : - STRIKE ONE			06:30
07:00	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN DREAMS : - HEARTACHE		DATELINE INTERNATIONAL	07:00
07:30	BALLROOM BOXING	HOOR OF POWER - THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS		MOTORWEEK		07:30
08:00		CELEBRATION OF VICTORY : - HOW TO BE HAPPY	MAGNUM P.I. : - A SENSE OF DEBT	FAR FROM HOME	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:30		CORAL RIDGE HOUR : - THE NAME OF GOD				08:30
09:00		THE WORD IN THE WORLD : - THE STORY OF ABSALOM	FAMILY TIES : - A WORD TO THE WISE (PT. 2)		AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA	09:00
09:30	SPORTS SPECIAL - INSIDE AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS	CAFE VIDEO : - LADIES' NIGHT AT THE CAFE	THE COSBY SHOW : - CAN I SAY SOMETHING PLEASE	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	WISHBONE : - BONE OF ARC	CHIPS : - ONE TOO MANY	WWE SMACKDOWN!	BELTWAY BOYS	10:00
10:30		SESAME STREET SPECIALS : - QUIET TIME			FOX NEWS WATCH	10:30
11:00	NHL - PHILADELPHIA FLYERS @ COLORADO AVALANCHE	FAR FROM HOME	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - CHRISTMAS	ANDROMEDA : - VAULT OF THE HEAVENS	HEADLINE NEWS	11:00
11:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - SATISFACTION FOR THE SPIRITUALLY THIRSTY		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	11:30
12:00			PRECEPTS FOR LIFE : - YOUR FUTURE (PT. 1)	HEADLINE NEWS	THE CHRIS MATTHEWS SHOW	12:00
12:30		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - HELP WANTED/ TEA AT THE TREEDOME	REAL VIDEOS : - THE ALTERED	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	12:30
13:00		MOTORWEEK	THE SIMPSONS : - GRANDPA VS. SEXUAL INADEQUACY	JUDGING AMY : - LOST IN THE SYSTEM	BIG STORY WEEKEND EDITION	13:00
13:30	SPORTSCENTER	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES	MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE			13:30
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - FRANK PAINTS THE HOUSE	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE	CNN PRESENTS	14:00
14:30	NHL - SAN JOSE SHARKS @ LOS ANGELES KINGS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	THE KING OF QUEENS : - STRIKE ONE			14:30
15:00		COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG TEN: UCLA VS MICHIGAN	AMERICAN DREAMS : - HEARTACHE		FOX & FRIENDS	15:00
16:00			MAGNUM P.I. : - A SENSE OF DEBT	HEADLINE NEWS	FOX & FRIENDS	16:00
16:30				SEINFELD : - THE CONTEST		16:30
17:00	NBA FASTBREAK	SPORTSCENTER	FAMILY TIES : - A WORD TO THE WISE (PT. 2)	MEET THE PRESS	CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING	17:00
17:30	NFL LIVE		THE COSBY SHOW : - CAN I SAY SOMETHING PLEASE			17:30
18:00	THE SPORTS REPORTERS	WWE SMACKDOWN!	CHIPS : - ONE TOO MANY	AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM		18:00
18:30	SPORTSCENTER			ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	FACE THE NATION	18:30
19:00	NFL COUNTDOWN	ANDROMEDA : - VAULT OF THE HEAVENS	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - CHRISTMAS		HEADLINE NEWS	19:00
19:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - SATISFACTION FOR THE SPIRITUALLY THIRSTY	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	19:30
20:00		FOX NFL SUNDAY	PRECEPTS FOR LIFE : - YOUR FUTURE (PT. 1)	THE NFL TODAY	LATE EDITION W/ WOLF BLITZER	20:00
20:30			REAL VIDEOS : - THE ALTERED			20:30
21:00	NFL - TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS @ TENNESSEE TITANS	NFL - DALLAS COWBOYS @ NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	THE SIMPSONS : - GRANDPA VS. SEXUAL INADEQUACY	NFL - CLEVELAND BROWNS @ CINCINNATI BENGALS		21:00
21:30			MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE			21:30
22:00			EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - FRANK PAINTS THE HOUSE		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30			THE KING OF QUEENS : - STRIKE ONE			22:30
23:00			AMERICAN DREAMS : - HEARTACHE		FOX NEWS LIVE	23:00

December 28, 1941

Request made for creation of construction battalions

On this day, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell requests authority from the Bureau of Navigation to create a contingent of construction units able to build everything from airfields to roads under battlefield conditions. These units would be known as the "Seabees"-for the first letters of *Construction Battalion*.

The men chosen for the battalions were not ordinary inductees or volunteers-they all had construction-work backgrounds. The first batch of recruits who made the cut had helped build the Boulder Dam, national highways, and urban skyscrapers; had dug subway tunnels; and had worked in mines and quarries. Some had experience building ocean liners and aircraft carriers.

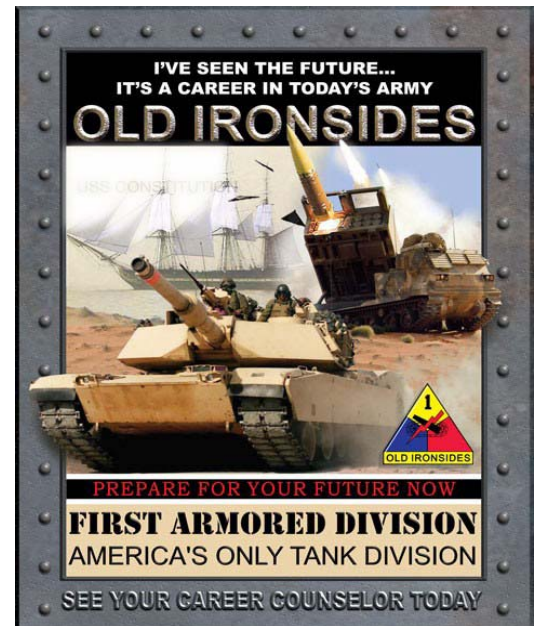
Approximately 325,000 men, from 60 different trades, ages 18 to 60, would go on to serve with the Seabees by the end of the war. The officers given the authority to command these men were also an elite crew, derived from the Civil Engineer Corps. Of the more than 11,000 officers in the Corps all together, almost 8,000 would serve with the construction units.

Although the Seabees were technically supposed to be support units, they were also trained as infantrymen, and they often found themselves in combat with the enemy in the course of their construction projects. They were sent to war theaters as far flung as the Azores, North Africa, the Mediterranean, the Pacific, and the beaches of Normandy.

Some of the Seabees' feats became legendary. They constructed huge airfields and support facilities for the B29 Superfortress bombers on Guam, Saipan, and Tinian, as well as the ports needed to bring in the supplies for the bombing of Japan.

The Seabees also suffered significant casualties in the process of providing innovative new pontoons to help the Allies land on the beaches of Sicily. During D-Day, the Seabees' demolition unit was among the first ashore. Their mission: to destroy the steel and concrete barriers the Germans had constructed as obstacles to invasion.

The Seabees' motto was "We Build, We Fight."



OIF reenlistment bonuses in effect

Task Force 1st Armored Division soldiers eligible to reenlist may want to consider re-upping now and take advantage of bonus multipliers that can mean some extra cash in their pockets.

All military occupational specialties are eligible. Soldiers must reenlist to complete their current deployment and for 12 months stabilization in their current unit. The minimum reenlist time is three years.

Unlike earlier bonuses, the current program is based upon the soldier's base pay, years of service, and length of the re-enlistment.

This formula means some soldiers will get slightly less than \$5,000, but most soldiers will receive more.

For example, a sergeant with more than six years of service who re-enlists for six years will get about \$6,111. A staff sergeant re-upping for the same six years will get a bonus of about \$6,612, and a specialist re-enlisting for four years, \$6,661.

For more information, contact your unit career counselor.